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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns Sunday's terrorist bombing in Israel; calls on all parties to continue Middle East peace process through dialogue, respect and tolerance.

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, chairs working group of senior United Nations officials on former Yugoslavia; discussion focuses on situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

+ Secretary-General establishes Voluntary Fund to support International Tribunal for Rwanda; urges States and organizations to contribute generously.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs has meetings with Government in Guatemala, Friends of Guatemalan peace process and MINUGUA; to meet with URNG and Mexican Foreign Minister in Mexico.

+ Preparatory Committee for World Summit for Social Development nears completion of work on draft declaration.

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The Security Council today strongly condemned the terrorist attack which took place in the Israeli town of Netanya on Sunday. In a statement to correspondents, Council President Emilio Cardenas (Argentina) said the attack had been launched with the clear purpose of undermining the Middle East peace process.

The Council extended its condolences to the families of those who had died in the incident, and wished a speedy recovery to those who had been wounded. It called on all parties to continue efforts to consolidate the peace process, expressing the belief that common ground could only be found through dialogue, respect and tolerance.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in Geneva with a working group of senior United Nations officials on the former Yugoslavia. Discussion focused on the situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Participating in the meeting were the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan; the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg; Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant-General Bertrand de Lapresle, and his successor, Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, who will take over on 1 March; and the UNPROFOR Force Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, and his predecessor, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose.

The Secretary-General will leave Geneva tomorrow for Davos, where he will deliver the opening address at the World Economic Forum on Thursday. He will also formally receive the report "Our Global Neighbourhood", prepared by the Commission on Global Governance. The report will be presented by the Prime Minister of Sweden, Ingvar Carlsson, and the Co-Chairman of the Commission, Shridath Ramphal.

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The Secretary-General today announced the creation of a Voluntary Fund to support the International Tribunal for Rwanda. He urged States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to it, noting that some pledges had already been received. The Tribunal was established by Security Council resolution 955 (1994) to prosecute persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda and neighbouring States last year.

Contributions to the Fund will enable the deployment of teams to Rwanda to investigate suspects in custody there, and the identification and apprehension of suspects in neighbouring States, according to the Secretary-General. Such an initiative is essential for the process of national reconciliation and for the restoration and maintenance of peace, both within Rwanda and in the refugee camps outside its borders.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, was in Guatemala City yesterday and today, for meetings with the Guetamalan Government and the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan peace process (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States and Venezuela). He also met with officials of the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

Mr. Goulding's mission is to put forward proposals for speeding up negotiations between the Guatemalan parties. He will depart for Mexico City later today, for meetings with the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), the Group of Friends and the Mexican Foreign Minister.

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Time is the only constraint in the finalization of texts for adoption by the World Summit for Social Development in March, according to Preparatory Committee Chairman Juan Somavia (Chile). As the Committee began the second week of its final session yesterday, Mr. Somavia reported on the progress of the two working groups which have been reviewing the draft declaration and draft programme of action for the Summit.

The first working group has been conducting a paragraph-by-paragraph review of the draft declaration and the final chapter of the draft programme of action, which addresses implementation and follow-up. The second working group has been focusing on the remaining chapters of the draft programme of action. Mr. Somavia said the first reading of the draft declaration and the final chapter of the draft programme had been completed and the group would strive to complete its work by Tuesday evening.

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